

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-46 are pending in the application.

Applicants wish to confirm that claims 1-31, 34, 35, 37-39, 41, 42, 45 and 46 are allowable as indicated by Examiner Lockett in a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney John Olivo on September 23, 2004. Examiner Lockett indicated to Mr. Olivo that the objection in Item 3 on page 2 of the Official Action was a clerical error and that the aforementioned claims are allowable as currently written.

35 USC 102 Rejection

Claims 32, 33, 36, 40, 43 and 44 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,481,173 to Roy et al.

The Examiner asserts that the bridge "provid[es] a mounting surface for the electromechanical transducer" as recited in claim 32. The Examiner appears to indicate that this recited limitation is shown in Figure 3 of Roy et al. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants submit that Figure 3 does not show or suggest the combination of a bridge and an electromechanical transducer. More specifically, in Figure 3, Roy et al. show a bridge (indicated by reference numeral 604) but do not show a transducer. Applicants respectfully note that element 606 of Roy et al., as shown in Figure 3 and described in column 5, lines 57-62, is an "enclosure" containing "a terminal block (not shown) for connecting the transducer to an external-driving source." (Emphasis Added). Thus, element 606 is not a transducer but rather a means for connecting the transducer (not shown) to an external driver. Applicants further note that Roy et al. do show a

transducer in Figures 2 and 11, however, the transducer is shown to be mounted to the radiating panel.

As Roy et al. do not teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 32, the claim should be found allowable. Accordingly, claims 33, 36, 40, 43 and 44, which depend therefrom, should also be found allowable.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdrawal the 102(b) rejection based on Roy et al. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 32, 33, 36, 40, 43 and 44 are believed to be in condition for allowance and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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